

I have been employed as a flight attendant for a major carrier for more than thirty years. I strenuously object to the proposal to permit cellphone usage on commercial aircraft flights. It is difficult in the extreme to maintain passenger attention without this interference. In the event of an emergency, it is more likely than not that passengers would be on their cell phones, rather than listening to instructions and complying with them. Many passengers choose the time inflight to sleep, to work, or to read. They pay for the privilege of peace and quiet, if that is their wish. Cellphone usage is unnecessary, and would lead to more interpersonal conflict that we already have inflight. With thin air, high altitude, alcohol consumption, and vastly differing ideas of what constitutes 'necessary' cellphone usage, and appropriate volume, it would lead to extremely unpleasant inflight experiences. My understanding of this proposal is that flight attendants would be charged with 'monitoring' cellphone use. How? What is appropriate to one passenger or flight attendant may well be unbearable to the next. This is a disaster waiting to happen!

In short and in summary, I disapprove of this proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) There is no hard evidence that cell phone use doesn't interfere with navigational instruments.
- 2) Cell phone use could enable terrorists to coordinate a plan of action more effectively.
- 3) The NPRM would leave it up to flight attendants to police the use of cell phones onboard the aircraft compromising our ability to maintain a safe, secure cabin environment and to conduct emergency evacuations.
- 4) It would make an already tense cabin environment even more stressful.